

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The present claims are presented in lieu of the appeal made earlier in this case, in order to attempt to bring prosecution of these claims to a satisfactory resolution. Applicants have also made a revision to independent claims 20 and 29, in order to more explicitly identify the spatial characteristics of the stent.

In reviewing the Examiner's latest rejection, it is noted that the Examiner has fully mischaracterized the Globerman reference, in that he has identified *both* the "circumferentially spaced struts" and the "connectors" as the same elements. It is clear that from claims 20 and 29, these elements cannot be the same, as the circumferentially spaced struts are part of the "rings" or "springs," and not part of the "connectors." Thus, it is submitted that the Globerman reference could not possibly be applied to read on the present claims, and that the newly amended set of claims should pass to allowance.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/JJI-49USCON/PAC for any such fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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